

Hon. Christopher M. Alston
Chapter 7
Date of Hearing: April 20, 2018
Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m.
Location of Hearing: United States
Courthouse, 700 Stewart St.,
Rm. 7206, Seattle, WA
Response Date: April 13, 2018

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

In re:

NORTHWEST TERRITORIAL MINT,
LLC,

Debtor.

NO. 16-11767-CMA

OBJECTION TO THE TRUSTEE'S
MOTION TO APPROVE DEADLINE TO
ASSERT CLAIMS WITH RESPECT TO
OWNERSHIP OF DIES AND
SETTLEMENT PROTOCOL TO
RESOLVE CLAIMS TO OWNERSHIP
OF DIES

COMES NOW Nevada Northern Railway Foundation, Inc. ("NNRF") and
OBJECTS to the Trustee's Motion to Approve (I) Deadline to Assert Claims with respect
to Ownership of Northwest Territorial Mint ("NWTM") Coining Dies and (II) Settlement
Protocol to Resolve Claims to Ownership of NWTM Dies.

Given the previous ruling made by the Court on March 9 and March 16 in regard
to the Trustee's motion to sell assets, Respondent is dumbfounded and flummoxed that
the Trustee would have the audacity to request approval of this summary process. At the
March 9 hearing, the Court verbally appeared to recognize that the determination of
ownership could be made by adversary proceeding only. Now, fancifully described as a
"Settlement" and fancily entitled a "Protocol," the Trustee proposes this process that

Objection to the Trustee's Motion to Approve
Deadline to Assert Claims with respect to
Ownership of Dies and Settlement Protocol to
Resolve Claims to Ownership of Dies-1 of 3



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1 would circumvent the need for presenting of evidence and other due process concerns in
2 favor of a compromise for convenience sake.

3
4 Respondent seconds and hereby joins in the numerous objections voiced and
5 explicated by United States Golf Association (“USGA”) in its objection to the instant
6 motion, filed on April 11, 2018 and numbered document 1580 on the case docket.
7 Specifically:

8 1. The timing of the motion is suspect. The hearing on the instant motion is
9 set for exactly one week prior to the hearing on the Trustee’s motion to convert the case
10 to chapter 7. The Trustee appears to be giving the Court one final opportunity to allow
11 for some fruitful disposal of the dies before they would be discarded in chapter 7
12 proceedings, by his own estimate.

13 This ultimatum is a false dichotomy. Although this trustee may be giving up on
14 administering the dies, disposal of the dies is not the only alternative to granting the
15 Trustee’s motion. The claimants’ ownership rights cannot be abruptly terminated in the
16 name of convenience for the Trustee in administering the estate.

17 2. The proposed protocol is patently unfair and violates Due Process rights of
18 parties claiming ownership of dies in question. The protocol, out of sake of convenience,
19 essentially assumes that NWTM is the owner of all dies in question. The claimant must
20 pay \$300.00 plus additional unspecified costs regardless of the merits of the claimant’s
21 claim to ownership. It gives the claimant 60 days to pay this amount or forever lose any
22 claim to ownership.

23 The protocol is certainly convenient, disposing of the need for otherwise-required
24 adversary proceedings to determine ownership – even for the need for the Trustee to
25 establish his own methods for determining ownership. But, this procedure clearly
26 violates Federal Bankruptcy Rule 7001. *SLW Capital, LLC v. Mansaray-Ruffin (In re*
27 *Mansaray-Ruffin)*, 530 F.3d 230 (3d Cir. 2008). And, as further pointed out in USGA’s
28 objection, the Court recognized this requirement at the March 9th hearing. Yet, the
29 Trustee tries for a similarly summary approach here.

3. Respondent has evidence of ownership of the dies in question.

Respondent is not in a position to evaluate the Trustee’s claims to the effect that the vast

Objection to the Trustee's Motion to Approve
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1 majority of the subject dies are clearly owned by NWTM. However, Respondent
2 certainly took exception to claims made by the Trustee repeatedly at the aforementioned
3 March 9th hearing that its ownership of dies associated with Respondent was clear.
4 Respondent submits that NWTM's ownership is at best cloudy and has evidence to the
5 contrary. As such, determination of ownership should not be made without opportunity
6 to present evidence – or some form of meaningful due process.

7
8 Based on the Objection filed by USGA and the reasons outlined above,
9 Respondent requests the Court to deny the Trustee's instant motion.

10 DATED this 13th day of April 2018

11 /s/ Lance L. Lee

12 Lance L. Lee, WSBA #26518

13 Attorney for Respondent

14 Nevada Northern Railway Foundation, Inc.

